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FTA NEWS

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

Vol. VII, No. 14 December 15, 1947 68 Price 5 Cents

FTA BARES CONGRESS DRIVE ON WAGE LAW

(See Page 5)

FTA touched Congress on a very sensitive nerve two weeks ago, with the result that Congressmen jumped and ran for cover as fast as they could.

The sensitive nerve was hit when FTA President Donald Henderson charged in testimony prepared for the House Labor Committee:

"A conspiracy exists in Congress to tear the guts out of the wage hour act just as the guts were torn out of the Wagner act when the Taft-Hartley law was passed.

"This conspiracy is directed against the poorest people in America —the workers who make less than 75 cents an hour."

The testimony, prepared for the committee and released to the newspapers, was denied a hearing by the subcommittee in charge of the wage hour act amendments.

This action, absolutely unprecedented in Congress, was a clear admission of the truth of Henderson's charge and of the fact that the Congressmen were afraid to face it.

The plot, Henderson said, is to limit the number of workers to whom the act applies to such an extent that it is useless and then pass a token raise in the minimum to 60 or even 65 cents an hour.

Both Republicans and reactionary Democrats are in on the plot, he added, saying to them: "I hope the gentlemen in Congress, including those on this committee, sleep well when they consider what they are doing."

To block this plot against the people's welfare, Henderson proposed a minimum wage of 75 cents, an end to all exemptions that now allow employers to work people at sweatshop hours without overtime, and extension to all workers not now covered.

RUSH RELIEF FUNDS NOW FOR ARIZONA STRIKERS

(See Page 3)

Three thousand members of FTA Local 78 are out on strike in the lettuce packing sheds around Phoenix, Arizona.

They asked for a wage increase that would amount to one twentieth of a cent per head of lettuce. They asked for union security from harassing lawsuits under the Taft-Hartley act.

The Grower-Shippers Association that employs these workers said no to everything.

Now that the strike is on the grower-shippers are trying to revive the old vigilante tactics that made the far west infamous a decade or more ago.

Already some women pickets have been stabbed by scabs. The National Guard has been called out to protect the scabs. The bosses are doing their best to whip up a lynch spirit against the union.

Writing to all FTA locals urging support for the strike, Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane put it this way:

"Local 78, Salt River Valley Division, is fighting a life and death struggle for its existence. The shippers are using the union-busting features of the Taft-Hartley act in the hope of destroying this militant local.

"The shippers want to take away all the gains that these workers have made and drive them back into insecurity, low wages and the stinking conditions they have had to endure.

"This may be a long drawn out strike. With 3,000 workers involved, the cost is running over $500 a day. You must:

1. Vote contributions from your treasury. 2. Take collections at your shop gate and department meetings. 3. Raise a financial contribution in all CIO Councils immediately. 4. Rush all contributions to this office: FTA-CIO, 158 N. 20th St., Philadelphia 3, Pa.

Good and welfare of FTA-CIO Local 78 members on strike in the Salt River Valley lettuce sheds is discussed here by strikers and union leaders.

Pickets have to eat, and here the kitchen force of Local 78 is on the job in Phoenix, Ariz. Relief funds are badly needed to keep kitchen going.

SLOW ACTION POISON

Some poisons act very quickly. Within a few minutes of swallowing them, the victim is still and cold.

Others take more time—they build up an accumulation of bad effects that takes longer to kill but does just as effective a job in the end.

The Taft-Hartley act is the second kind of poison—and that is the way it was designed to work. Just like lead poisoning, or arsenate poisoning, or any of the 101 health hazards the worker faces in his daily toil, it is doing its deadly work not in one swoop but slowly, cautiously, in an almost hidden manner.

Perhaps some people are confused by this. Correctly realizing that the Taft-Hartley act was meant to destroy unions, they look around now after three months and find their union still in existence, still fighting and winning for them.

Unions haven't yet gone out of business. Wage cuts haven't yet been forced on the workers. Contracts are still in force. So, people may figure, what's all the shouting for? Sure, Taft-Hartley is bad—but it hasn't touched us yet.

Let's look at the record. In California, 50,000 cannery workers have again been denied the right to a union of their own choice—FTA-CIO. The NLRB elections of '45 and '46, which FTA has proved were rigged by company intimidation and illegal, backdoor agreements between the bosses and the AFL Teamsters, have again been refused review by the Taft-Hartley National Labor Relations Board.

Also in California, the AFL Teamsters are raiding FTA canneries where the workers voted nine to one for FTA and dried fruit plants where the workers have had CIO Longshoremen and Warehousemen's contracts for 10 years.

In Chicago, 171 UE-CIO members have been arrested for defying a strike-breaking injunction at the Cory Corporation. Twenty-two cases involving CIO Steelworkers Union members have been thrown out by the Taft-Hartley Board. A case involving 400 CIO Furniture Workers in Hazlewood, N. C., has been dismissed.

And so it goes—a Mineworkers case in Tennessee, a vicious injunction against CIO Communications Workers in Pennsylvania, a bargaining case involving CIO Packinghouse Workers in Wisconsin, a strike of AFL printers forced by the Taft-Hartley act in Chicago, Taft-Hartley suits against AFL printers in the South.

From FTA stewards and locals come reports that shop grievances are hanging tougher than ever before. Wage talks are tightening up. Layoffs are increasing.

No, the Taft-Hartley act was not meant to be sudden death to unions. The NAM didn't want it that way. But a slow poison kills just as dead as a quick one, if the victim goes on swallowing it.

What's the antidote to Taft-Hartley poison?

1) Refuse, like the Steelworkers, the Electrical Workers and a dozen other CIO and non-CIO unions to walk into the Taft-Hartley Board trap.

2) Build the economic and organized power of your union into a strong, disciplined force that can protect its members despite the Taft-Hartley act.

3) Build independent political action, support CIO-PAC to smash the political power of the NAM, the Chamber of Commerce and their political hacks who engineered the Taft-Hartley slave labor act.

FROM WASHINGTON

THE FIGHT FOR PRICE CONTROL

By ELIZABETH SASULY

The situation on price control in the third week of the special session of Congress is something like the weather: everybody talks about it, but no one does anything about it. Almost everyone is talking but the key people and committees aren't lifting a finger in spite of the fact that this is one of the two points for which the session was supposed to be called.

Consider these facts:

Hearings were held throughout the country by subcommittees of the Joint Committee on the Economic Report. Even the Republican chairman of the eastern subcommittee (Sen. Flanders, Vt.) noted in his report "this great indignation expressed (by the people) as to the increased profits of food processors and distributors." But now other Republican controlled committees in the Senate and House are poking along with more hearings.

And what about the Democrats? President Truman's message said some brave words about restoring price controls and rationing. It is also true that he said nothing about profits and that he recommended wage controls and that this recommendation has been repeated by Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach. But sticking to price control for the moment, where is the Administration's bill on price control and rationing? Two and a half weeks have gone by and no bill has been introduced. By regular custom, when the President makes a recommendation to Congress it is quickly introduced in the form of a bill by administration leaders. This was done immediately on the question of authorizing emergency funds for France, Italy and Austria.

It is extremely likely that a bill providing for some price control and rationing power plus wage control will be put in the hopper by a Democrat in a week or so. But please note that the special session will probably go home the week beginning December 22nd and at this rate the results will be exactly zero.

Here is where we come in. We don't have any illusions that the 80th Congress is going to solve our problems by speedily passing an effective price control bill. CIO is not depending on such phoney hopes, and has put forth a program of new wage demands to restore the people's standard of living.

But does this mean that we should forget about Congress and let them get away with murder without a fight? The answer is emphatically no. And this is why:

1) We can wring some concessions from even the worst legislative bodies when the pressure is strong enough.

2) The best defense is an offense. If the people do not continue to express their answer, the Congress will push even farther. Having destroyed the Wagner act and price control, they will do the same job on the wage-hour act—if we let them.

President Henderson charged that there was a conspiracy in Congress to do just this, and by his exposure of the conspiracy, FTA is helping to stop it. It's exactly the same as bargaining for a contract. If you aren't well organized and don't fight, the boss pushes you to the wall.

Here is how every FTA local can fight:

1) Keep the price control petitions coming in.

2) Plan to send a delegation to your Congressman when he comes home for the Christmas holidays, and take this point up at your next executive board or membership meeting. Call your Congressman's local office or his home and make an appointment. Get a good group of members on a committee. Tell him what you think about prices, wages and the bosses' profits, and don't mince words.

3) Delegations should be planned with your CIO Council wherever possible. But where there is no Council or they don't act in time, your local should go ahead on its own.

ORCHIDS TO THESE

These are the Congressmen who voted against the un-American committee contempt citation of Hollywood screen writers and directors. Ten of the movies' top artists were smeared by the un-Americans and now face possible jail sentences for standing up in defense of all Americans' rights of free speech and assembly. To the Congressmen's honor and to the majority's disgrace there were only 17 who voted for the Bill of Rights. Here they are:

Claude I. Bakewell, (R. Mo.); John Blatnik, (D., Minn.); Sol Bloom, (D., N. Y.); John A. Carroll, (D., Colo.); Emmanuel Celler, (D., N. Y.); Helen Douglas, (D., Cal.); Herman Eberharter, (D., Pa.); Franck Havenner, (D., Cal.); Chet Holifield, (D., Cal.); Walter Huber, (D., Ohio); Arthur G. Klein, (D., N. Y.); Vito Marcantonio, (ALP, N. Y.); Thomas Morgan, (D., Pa.); Joseph Pfeifer, (D., N. Y.); Adam Powell, (D., N. Y.); George Sadowski, (D., Mich.).

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Best wishes for a good Christmas and a better New Year from the officers and staff of FTA-CIO and from FTA News.

Donald Henderson, president; Harold J. Lane, secretary-treasurer; Lewis C. Bentzley, Robert Lathan, Armando Ramirez, vice-presidents; John Tisa, director of organization; Joseph Califf, director of research; C. W. Fowler, director of press and publicity; Elizabeth Sasuly, legislative and PAC director.

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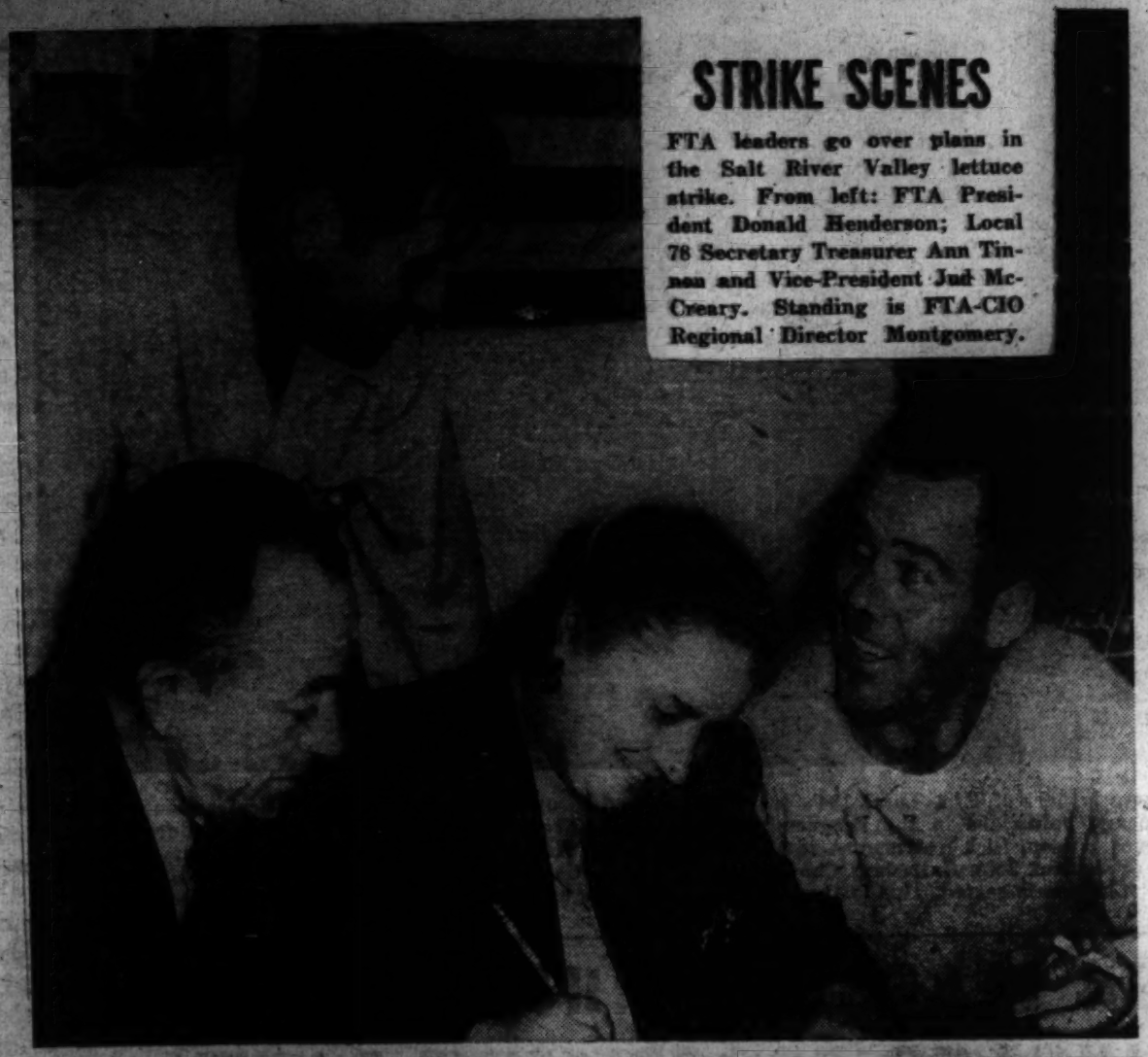


STRIKE SCENES

FTA leaders go over plans in the Salt River Valley lettuce strike. From left: FTA President Donald Henderson; Local 78 Secretary Treasurer Ann Tinnon and Vice-President Jud McCreary. Standing is FTA-CIO Regional Director Montgomery.

CIO, AFL SUPPORT FTA LETTUCE SHED STRIKE

United support for the 3,000 FTA strikers in the lettuce sheds of the Salt River Valley area of Arizona came from CIO, AFL and independent unions as the strike went into its fourth week with the sheds still firmly shut down.

The strike was caused by flat refusal of the Grower-Shippers Association to say anything but "no" to Local 78, SRV Division demands for a 10 percent wage increase and union security against attacks under the Taft-Hartley act.

In an unsuccessful attempt to break the strike, the grower-shippers have brought in the state National Guard and have attempted to revive anti-union vigilantism so thoroughly exposed by the Senate Civil Liberties Committee 10 years ago.

Labor solidarity behind the strikers is being expressed in protests to Governor Sidney Osborn, State House, Phoenix, Ariz., demanding the withdrawal of the National Guard and in relief funds rushed to FTA headquarters at 20th and Race Sts. in Philadelphia, Pa.

Employer - provoked violence against pickets has already resulted in the stabbing of two women strikers and in attempts to pin blame for a packing shed fire on the union.

Demands of the strikers are figured to add less than 1/20th of a cent per head to the cost of lettuce. Their wages at present account for less than 1/10th of a cent of the cost—the rest of the price consumers pay at retail going to growers, shippers and distributors.

The grower-shippers have demanded the right to give super-seniority to strikebreakers, keeping them in the sheds after the strike is ended and bumping regular workers with years of seniority. They have also demanded a strict Taft-Hartley no-strike clause that would expose the union to crippling lawsuits for the slightest stoppage or slow-down, regardless of whether it was the union's responsibility or not.

Meantime, the grower-shippers have turned to another familiar weapon on the strikebreaking arsenal, with a threat to call in the Thomas-Rankin unAmerican activities committee of Congress to do a redbaiting job on the union.

Commenting on this, FTA President Donald Henderson said in Phoenix: "This is not surprising. The unAmerican committee tried to break our strike against the makers of Camels cigarets in Winston-Salem, N.C. In fact, that's what the committee is for — to help employers weaken and destroy unions."

A similar employer attempt was made to raise the false issue of compliance with the Taft-Hartley anti-union law by FTA-CIO, which was branded by Henderson as an effort "to divide the union and divert attention from the real issues of the strike, which are a 10 percent wage increase, non-liability for unauthorized strikes and return of all strikers to their jobs without loss of seniority."

Local 78 proposals to meet the grower-shippers in public debate over the issues of the strike have gone unanswered, Salt River Valley Division President Tex Bell reported. "They know full well that if they were to present their side of this dispute to the public, they would be laughed right out of the meeting," he said.

Coming to the defense of the strikers, Arizona state AFL Secretary E. L. Vickers said: "This is the time for all labor to unite and fight for our rights. Our jobs and our rights are being threatened with extinction. We are going to organize the biggest campaign of economic and political action Arizona has ever seen."

Appeals for funds were sent out by FTA Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane and SRV Local 78 Secretary-Treasurer Ann Tinnon. "Our workers are waging a valiant fight for the rights of all labor," Sister Tinnon said. "We cannot be defeated by the forces of reaction, but we may fold up if our people are forced to go without food."

Same Bosses Fight Both

The attack on farmers' co-ops and the attack on labor unions now going on in Congress and the big business press comes from the same source — the monopoly employers—five CIO union presidents said in a statement to the farm press this week.

Joining with President Henderson of FTA were Presidents Ralph Helstein of Packinghouse Workers, John Clark of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, Grant Oakes of Farm Equipment, and Ben Gold of the Fur and Leather Workers.

"The attack on farm co-ops is clearly the product of the same monopoly forces that put over the Taft-Hartley act in the attempt to cripple labor," the five CIO leaders said.

"It is an attempt by monopoly to destroy the free and voluntary organization of farmers for their mutual benefit and thus turn them over to the mercy of profiteers and speculators.

"We pledge our unswerving support to the farmers in their fight to prevent the enemies of the common people from destroying their cooperatives through unjust taxation."

Above: Lettuce shed leaders with picket sign are, from left, bottom row: Charles Law and Rufus (Tex) Bell, Local 78 President; D. Law, Ann Tinnon and Dick Turner, trustees. Bottom picture shows crowded mass meeting when strike was voted.

In The Locals

Runaway Must Pay

Following an intensive campaign of public pressure, New York Local 273 won severance pay from the La Primadora Cigar Co., in spite of the company's attempt to dump its 150 workers when it moved to Tampa, Florida.

All employees on the company's payroll on October 31, 1947, were guaranteed severance pay in the following order: workers employed 25 years or more—five week's pay; 15 to 25 years—four weeks pay; 10 to 15 years—three weeks pay; five to 10 years—two weeks pay; and less than five years—one week's pay.

The company also agreed to continue payment of group insurance premiums until December 31, 1947.

Several months ago when the E. Regensburg and Sons Cigar Co. tried a similar run-out move on its employees, the union forced the following agreement, signed last March: severance pay of two weeks for ten years or more seniority and one week for less than 10 years. Accrued vacation pay up to June 28, 1947, accrued sick pay, and check-off of dues up to June 1947.

Failing in numerous attempts to prevent these two shops from running away the local succeeded in making the employers fulfill their obligations to the laid-off workers.

Above is part of FTA Local 194's team that helped throw the fear of labor political action into the Chicago politicians in the Progressive Party drive. From left: Elizabeth Wroton, Zellner Carter, James Wilson, Dick Garrison, Acie Mull, James Horn, Minnie Lee Wilson, Floyd Hall, Henry Gistover, 194 President John Gallacher, Charles Brown, James Graham, Elvy Mayo, Bill Moreland, Josephine Chlupsa is seated. This is the day force team. Night force put on an equally good campaign.
(See story below)

FTA's First In Lexington

By Reuel Stanfield

Wage increases ranging from 17 to 25c an hour for year-round workers and 10c an hour for seasonal workers were won recently by Local 66 at the American Supliers tobacco redrying plant in Lexington, Ky.

The new contract is FTA's first in Lexington, and paves the way for successful negotiations at six more tobacco plants organized by FTA in the area.

Two weeks vacation with 80 hours pay for one year, and six paid holidays at double-time pay if worked, were won for year-round workers.

Seasonal workers got two paid holidays (Christmas and New Years) at time and a half if worked, plus a bonus of 20 hours pay if any seasonal worker puts in more than 450 hours.

Promotions on the job will be based on recommendations from the shop committee, according to the new contract, and seasonal workers will be given first chance for year-round jobs.

Skirting the Taft-Hartley law which make a union shop practically impossible, the union and the company agreed to interview workers who refuse to join the union within 15 days after they are hired.

The real secret of Local 66's success in an almost 100 percent organized plant.

Members of Local 66 are very proud of their fine start, and especially grateful to negotiating committee members Homer Smother, James Hackney, H. F. Ingram, David Parido, William Blyth, Clarence Bledso and Marion Haddix. International Organizer Reuel Stanfield assisted.

TAFT ACT FAILS BOSS

Taft-Hartley boss Gibson of the Hawthorne-Mellody milk plant in Whitewater, Wis. took a shellacking from Local 236 when reinstatement of a fired worker was won by the Local's grievance committee.

Thinking that the Taft-Hartley law was a signal to introduce a speed-up in the plant and engage in a little union busting, Gibson started off by firing a union member. He soon changed his mind after a hot session with Local 236 president George West and the grievance committee.

"We couldn't let him get away with the first fight, because there would be no stopping him then," said West.

Doing Nicely, Thank You —Without Taft-Hartley

"We can do very well without the Taft-Hartley board," was what Local 280 members in Michigan said following an election and the signing of a contract covering Bridgemen-Russell dairy workers in Hancock and Marquette.

Conducted without the NLRB, the election victory marked the first bargaining rights won in the union since Taft-Hartley went into effect. The election was supervised by the Michigan State Mediation Board.

Wage increases ranging from $30 to $60 a month, a guaranteed work week of 48 hours with time and one-half pay after 40 hours a week, check-off of dues, paid vacations, grievance procedure and seniority were some of the gains made. Dairy workers are exempted from overtime pay provisions of the Wage-Hour law, but through strong organization, Bridgemen-Russell workers overcame this obstacle by getting overtime pay.

The union succeeded in keeping out company security clauses and no-strike clauses. Settlement came without a strike through almost 100% organization in the plant as well as full community support.

Local 280 negotiating committee members included George Chamberlain, Herbert Boxer, Joseph Gedvillas, David McAdam, and Sylvio Guisfredi, assisted by Regional Director Paul Gardner.

Locals Start New Paper

Two new local union newspapers were born this month in Local 55, Middletown, Ohio, and Local 300, Ohio-Michigan. Local 55's "Polar Bear," an attractive mimeographed bulletin, carries news of the local's gains, political action, news about the members, and lots of good humor. Congratulations to Editor Charles Byrd and his staff.

Local 300 printed a four-page newspaper. It has no name yet, but the member who names it will get a valuable prize. It contains news of Local 300's widespread activities in Michigan and Ohio. Local Organizer Harold Kotzker is temporary editor.

194 LEADS WAY IN BUILDING CHICAGO PROGRESSIVE PARTY

By Elizabeth Wroton

Something new happened to Chicago last month when the progressive movement scored a victory that serves as an example to independent, progressive-minded voters all over the country.

The Progressive Party, running 21 candidates for Judges of the Superior Court of Cook County, made a sensational showing for a brand new party. The Democratic and Republican machines had predicted that in this usually dull election only some 300,000 voters would go to the polls. Instead, 700,000 people voted. Of these, 116,000 cast straight ballots for the new Progressive Party.

Homer F. Carey, high man on the Progressive ticket, got over 300,000 votes, and just barely missed winning over Crowley, low man on the Democratic-Republican coalition. In fact, it is generally agreed that a fair count of the vote in all precincts in Chicago would have shown that Carey won.

What were the issues that sent the voters of Chicago out in such unprecedented numbers in revolt against the old-line political machines?

First there was the issue of clean government. For 22 years, the Democrats and Republicans have run a joint coalition slate in the elections for Judges of the Superior Court. A handful of party bosses used to pick out a certain number of Democrats and a certain number of Republicans, making a total of 21. The voters had no choice.

Second was the issue of Jim Crow courts. The Negro people of Chicago comprise some 10 per cent of the voters. Yet there has never been a single Negro on the Superior Court bench. This year, a petition signed by 25,000 voters requesting that at least one Negro lawyer be put on the slate was contemptuously ignored by both Democrats and Republicans.

Third was the issue of injunctions. After the Taft-Hartley act passed, labor began inquiring into all processes of government. The Superior Court Judges were found to be one of the strongest arms of the bosses in Chicago. These Judges are the ones that pass on injunctions. They seldom failed to issue an injunction at the slightest request.

As a consequence of all these abuses, public indignation ran high amongst middle class voters, Negro voters and trade unionists. Joining together, people from three groups first of all succeeded in obtaining 121,000 signatures to place the Progressive Party on the ballot. And secondly, from this same excellent combination came the precinct workers who manned the precincts, explained the issues to the voters, and secured the tremendous Progressive Party turnout on election day.

It is generally agreed that Local 194 played a role second to none for its size in the campaign.

Since 194 has a heavy membership in the 2nd ward, special coordination was needed there. Brother Zellner Carter, an assistant chief steward of the Campbell Soup plant, was put on full time for the last two weeks of the campaign to coordinate the work there. Brother Carter did an outstanding job in directing the campaign work not only of FTA members in the 2nd ward but of members from other unions as well.

The aldermanic campaign of last spring made experienced precinct workers of 194's stewards. They have learned how to talk to the voters, distribute literature in the precinct, and work with members from other unions in organizing their precincts.

On election day, both in working the precincts during the day and in watching the count at night, Local 194 stewards and members participated in large numbers.

We can give only a few examples of the experiences that some of our people had in the precincts. These few will serve as samples.

Ed Henderson, a night shift steward, who not only works nights in the plant but goes to school in the mornings, did an outstanding job in his precinct.

Ed got a vote of 68 straight Progressive to 19 straight Democratic (Democrats and Republicans ran together under the Democratic label). Asked how he did it, Ed said, "why I didn't think it was anything."

Bill Blount from the day shift and Robert Glover, night shift, both began working early in their precincts in the 5th ward. They discovered Chicago Star readers and other trade unionists in their precincts to help them cover all the buildings. Both carried their precincts by substantial majorities, Bill getting 44 straight Progressive to 21 straight Democratic and Glover getting 88 straight Progressive votes to 58 straight Democratic.

Betty Robinson, office secretary, reported to Local 194 that no literature of the Progressive party had been distributed in her area. Local 194 took an ad in a neighborhood newspaper, explaining what the progressive party stood for. When Betty watched the counting of the vote in her precinct election night, both she and the Democratic precinct captain were astounded at the Progressive deluge — 71 straight Progressive to 32 straight Democratic.

Midwest FTA Reports Gains

More than 20 delegates to the annual conference of the Wisconsin-Minnesota region heard reports of progress and plans for future expansion from Regional Director Paul Gardner and a major address on FTA policy from Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane in a one-day meeting in Milwaukee, Wis.

"The Taft-Hartley act affidavits, no matter how they may be dressed up in words about 'communism' are simply a sucker's bait to induce unions to walk into the trap of the National Labor Relations Board," Lane said.

"The act itself is nothing less than an attempt to shove dictatorship over on the people of the U. S. just as military force is being used to punish strikers with death in Greece," he added, citing the list of top Wall Streef men now in President Truman's cabinet and their agents in Congress.

"Not once has the present Congress been accused of helping labor in this country. Not once has our State Department been accused of doing anything to help workers' and people's government abroad. It is time we called a halt to both."

Leo Kryzycki, veteran leader of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, was another featured speaker, telling about the democracy that prevails in Poland and the struggles of the workers there to sweep the remnants of fascism and feudalism into the rubbish heap of history.

Congress In Plot To Kill Wage-Hour Act

"A conspiracy exists in Congress to tear the guts out of the wage hour act just as the guts were torn out of the Wagner act when the Taft-Hartley law was passed.

"This conspiracy is directed against the poorest people in America—the workers who make less than 75 cents an hour.

"I hope the gentlemen in Congress, including those on this committee, sleep well when they consider what they are doing."

Donald Henderson, president, FTA-CIO

With this blunt charge, FTA President Henderson blew the lid off a story that every newspaperman in Washington knew but none dared write to his paper—the story of the plot to knife the wage hour act.

The blow-off came when Henderson submitted testimony to the House Labor committee holding hearings on bills to amend the act, and when it came, the House Labor committee couldn't take it. Acting in defiance of all law and tradition on hearings, the committee refused to let Henderson appear to back up and prove his charge.

The plot, Henderson said, takes two forms:

"First, to so limit the scope and application of the act that workers are no longer protected by it and then, secondly, to pass a token increase in the minimum rate—perhaps to 60 or 65 cents—in the attempt to quiet the workers' protest.

"Both Republicans and Democrats are in on this scheme. The Republicans, led by Senator Taft, intend to pose as the great friends of labor by taking credit for the token increase in minimum wages. At the same time, they will give the employers of both north and south precisely what they want by cutting down the overtime coverage of the law to almost zero.

"This will be done by increasing the number of workers who are not legally entitled to extra compensation for overtime work after 40 hours."

With this blast against it, the House Labor committee hastily called a secret session to consider what to do about the Henderson testimony. First reaction of some members was to haul him up and grill him in an attempt to discredit the charge. More discreet heads, however, persuaded the majority that it was better to let the FTA charges strictly alone, since they could not be disproved.

Appealing again to the committee for the right to be heard, Henderson then wrote a letter to the chairman of the subcommittee of the full Labor group involved, saying:

"I did not expect the subcommittee of the House Committee on Education and Labor to resort to the indefensible and un-American methods employed by the House committee on so-called un-American activities.

"I sincerely hoped that statements made on behalf of American citizens—especially a statement concerned, as mine was, with the interests of the most underprivileged, most discriminated and least protected of all Americans, would be willingly accepted by your committee."

Apparently, however, Henderson was wrong on this point, since the only answer from the committee so far has been an embarrassed silence.

Clear proof that FTA President Henderson's charge of a Congressional plot to kill the wage-hour act came within a week of making it, when Rep. Schwabe (R., Mo.) offered a bill for outright repeal.

This was followed by a rash of "that's not the way to do it" talk from Washington. Three days later, Senator Capehart (R., Ind.), himself a large radio factory owner, put in his bill to end the requirement of time and a half pay after 40 hours work.

Capehart's technique is smoother than Schwabe's. As Henderson predicted, it is the one that is being followed.

In his banned testimony, Henderson pointed out that over a million workers in the food, tobacco and fiber processing industries that FTA organizes are already out in the cold on the question of time and half for overtime required under the act.

These include the cottonseed oil industry, which has a complete exemption from the requirement, the canning and fresh fruit and vegetable packing industries which are allowed a 28 week exempt period, and the tobacco industry which gets 14 weeks during which it can work sweatshop hours without penalty.

Henderson proposed the complete elimination of exemptions from overtime requirements on the ground that:

"1. The occupations involved are as industrialized as those in any other factory. This has been publicly recognized by the administrator of the act, and numerous others.

"2. The worker is frequently forced to work as much as 60 or even 80 hours a week for weeks at a stretch. Such work undermines his health and shortens his life. He should at least be compensated by time and a half for expending his only assets—his health and strength and labor power.

"3. Payment of extra compensation for overtime work does not penalize employers or put them out of business—as some Congressmen assert. This is proved by the large number of plants in which FTA-CIO has contracts that do pay time and a half for overtime.

"As a matter of fairness and free competition to those employers who have agree to eliminate overtime exemptions, the law should close this loophole against the chiseller and the sweatshop operator."

FTA's program for fair changes of the wage hour act was put in five points by President Henderson in the testimony for Congress to hear. Here they are:

1. Raise the minimum wage for all workers to 75 cents an hour now. This is the least Congress can do to help the poorest paid and the most exploited workers in the country.

2. End all exemptions from overtime pay for work beyond 40 hours a week. This will in some measure stop an outrageous discrimination against more than 1,000,000 American workers.

3. Eliminate the 'area of production' clause that now arbitrarily excludes hundreds of thousands of food and fiber processing workers employed in industrial operations.

4. Eliminate the section of the act that now excludes fish cannery workers and fishermen.

5. Include agricultural workers on commercial farms employing 500 or more man days of hired labor.

Henderson challenged the Congressmen—and the employers behind their moves against the wage hour act—to try living on less than 75 cents an hour. He quoted from testimony before the Joint Congress committee on the cost of living by an FTA member from North Carolina, who told of a widow making less than that:

"I've seen her buy groceries lots of times. And the only things I've ever seen her buy were beans, rice, fatback, cornmeal, flour and maybe a pound or two of lard.

"I know what they eat. It's boiled beans for supper and what's left of them warmed over for breakfast the next day."

This widow, a tobacco leaf-house worker, has five children to support on a wage of 55 cents an hour.

"These are the workers whom gentlemen in this Congress, acting at the command of big business, want to rob of even the feeble protection of the wage hour act," Henderson said.

More proof that big business and Congress are ganging up to gut the wage hour act was seen when Mr. Emerson Schmidt, of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, declared to the Labor Committee:

"What is a living wage? The Japanese and Chinese live on 10 cents."

... and was complimented by Rep. Ralph W. Gwinn (R., N. Y.) with the words: "Mr. Schmidt, it is like a breath of fresh air to have thinking on the other side of some of these questions; I mean, careful thinking."

(Ed. Note: How low can a Congressman get?)

Republicans and Democrats in the conspiracy against the wage-hour act want to reduce all workers to the substandard pay of these pea pickers shown at work in the fields. Classified as agricultural workers, they receive no protection whatever under the law. Cannery workers in two column picture above would lose present protection if bosses' plans go through in Congress.

The Mailman Brings...

(The following letter was sent by Sister Whichard of Local 10 to FTA News. It has been forwarded to the two North Carolina Senators in Washington, D. C.)

Dear Senators:

I don't see how we poor people in Greenville are going to live this winter. We have got to help feed the hungry peoples in the European states and we don't have any jobs and the employment office men won't let the people sign to get their claim money. They tell us to bring the address of the people that we ask for jobs.

Last year I went to some white lady's house and asked for a job. She said no. When I asked for her address she got mad and said get out of my yard before I shoot you. So I ran and told the employment boss and he said you can't sign.

We colored people have it hard here in the Southern states. When it gets cold here, we colored people go to warehouses to sign up for the employment money. These are old houses where there is no fire, and we stand in the cold and almost freeze.

I would like to know why when the white people sign their claims they sign at the employment office where there are plenty of heaters and a warm place. Please give me some explanation.

We colored people are like cows in stalls waiting to be milked in the cold weat' er. Send someone here to help in this employment that will make it better for us. Please write soon.

From an FTA-CIO member of Local 10,

Mrs. Anna S. Whichard
Greenville, N. C.

Aid AFL Strikers

Financial support to AFL farm workers on strike at the DiGeorgio farms in California was extended by FTA Local 78 and Local 272 members at the Deardorff-Jackson Tomato Packing Shed, Bryan Smith Tomato Packing Shed, and San Joaquin Cotton Compress and Warehouse Co.

Kern County AFL Labor Council officials expressed their thanks and assured the CIO unions of wholehearted support in future situations needing their help.

Your Congressman cost you exactly $581 last year in lost purchasing power through destruction of price control and other aids to big business. Studies by the California CIO Research Dept. show that this cost applies to every man, woman and child in the U.S. — quite a total. A dollar for PAC is a lot less. Have you given yours yet?

207 Wins Despite Taft

Local 207, Hills Bros., New York, is showing the way to maintain conditions despite the Taft-Hartley act and despite the absence of a contract.

The way to do it is neither simple nor easy, according to President Viola Castagnola and Secretary-Treasurer Rose DeCresceñzo, but it can be done with the main ingredient of union solidarity kept firmly in mind.

Negotiations for a new contract ran from May to August, with a few wage concessions and some added paid holidays won from management. Management, however, insisted on a stringent no-strike clause that would have exposed the union to crippling lawsuits under the Taft-Hartley act.

This the union refused to accept, voting in well attended meetings to work without a contract rather than dropping the union's guard the way the employers wanted.

A shop stewards conference that turned into a membership meeting resolved to accept the company's challenge, one of which included a threat to "take the union members away from the leadership"—which, the company said, was all "red" anyway.

Eight machine operators were then cut back on their rates by the company in revenge. The union replied with the slogan "a day's work for a day's pay" which slowed down production considerably.

This involved a real sacrifice to the workers, since it meant going back to the base rate and foregoing premiums. It works, however, and the company is riding the workers less and giving a little more in its dealings with the union.

"The key is 100 percent union solidarity in the shop," both Pres. Castagnola and Secretary DeCrescenzo said. "Everyone who comes into the plant is signed up at once. Our people turn out to meetings and they say: 'we'll work without a contract for years, if we have to—but we'll win'."

FTA MAN ROLLS UP BIG VOTE

Edwin Waller, first labor candidate to run for Miami, Fla. city commission, rolled up 6,659 votes on Nov. 18 and was nosed out of a runoff by only one candidate.

Waller, who is secretary-treasurer of the Miami CIO Council and former business agent of FTA Local 42, came in seventh out of a field of 20 candidates.

General reaction of the city's political bosses was voiced by the Miami Herald which said the "surprise of the election was the strong vote for Waller."

"This is an enormous achievement," Charles Smolikoff, director of the state CIO said. "It really registers the labor progressive strength and will serve as an impetus to the newly formed United Labor Political Committee to continue to run men for office."

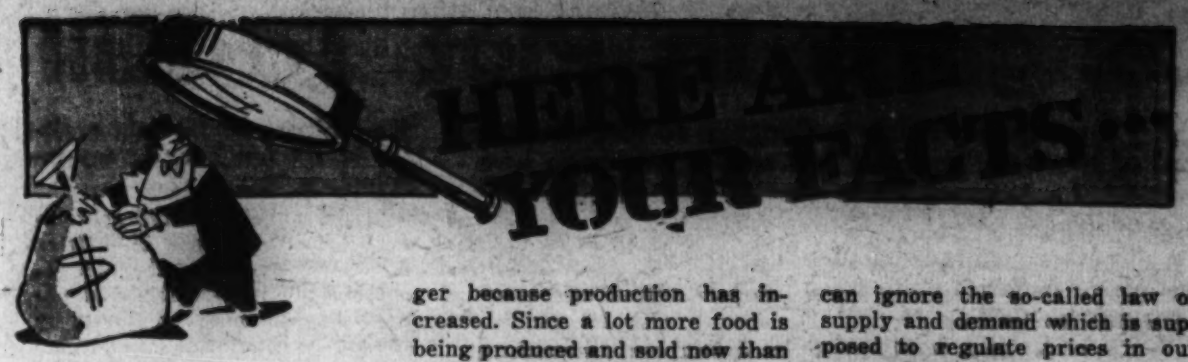
While other candidates spent thousands of dollars on newspaper and radio advertising, Waller was given the silent treatment by the press and had to depend on the labor committee to promote his campaign.

FTA Fights Rent Hikes

Reports that some real estate interests in Winston-Salem, N. C. are attempting to force tenants to sign leases with 15 per cent rent increases have been made to Local 22 and the union is advising all members, as well as other citizens, that they are not required by law to sign such leases, and that no tenant can be evicted for refusing to sign leases with higher rents.

"The rent control law says that leases with higher rents can be signed only when they are voluntary on the part of both the tenant and the landlord. Any landlord who threatens or hints that a tenant must sign or move out is acting contrary to the law, and no tenant needs to be intimidated by it," the union said.

It was voted to inform the membership and the public of the rights that renters have, "so that profiteering on rents shall not be allowed to increase the already unbearable cost of living."



By Joseph Califf
Research Director

WHAT ABOUT PROFITS, PRICES AND WAGES?

The answer to this question is:

1. Food companies made more money in 1946 than ever before, and profits are climbing even higher this year;

2. Food prices, as everyone knows, have risen terrifically, so that food now costs more than twice what it did before the war and at least 40% more than when we had OPA and price control;

3. Food workers' wages have gone down in terms of what the workers can buy with their pay checks. Workers get more money today, but they cannot buy as much food, clothing and other necessities as they could with their smaller earnings a year and a half ago.

These facts are the highlights of a study just completed by the FTA Research Department. Further details follow:

PROFITS: Food processing corporations made four times as much money (after taxes) in 1946 as they did in the years just before the war. The profits of small food companies were almost seven times what they were before the war.

The increase in food company profits was much greater than in most industries. The average increase in profits for all American manufacturing industries between 1945 and 1946 was 39 percent. Food companies stepped up their rakeoff by 81% — more than double the national average.

This year, the profiteering is greater than ever. In the first six months of 1947, the profits of food companies for which figures are available were 40 to 50% higher than in the same months of 1946.

Some spokesmen for the bosses try to deny they are profiteering by claiming that profits are bigger because production has increased. Since a lot more food is being produced and sold now than before the war, they say, the number of dollars taken in as profits naturally has risen correspondingly.

The facts show that this claim is false. The quantity of food products manufactured was 50 percent greater in 1946 than in the years 1935-39. But profits were not just 50 percent greater: they were 300 percent greater.

The extent of profiteering in the food industries is further shown by what they are making on their net worth, that is, on the amount of money invested in the business by the owners.

Before the war, food processing corporations averaged seven cents profit (after taxes) on every dollar of capital invested. In 1945 they averaged nine cents. In 1946, their return jumped to 16 cents on the dollar, and in the first half of 1947 it was up to between 18 cents and 21 cents. This is far ahead of the national average profit for all industries, which was 9½c in 1946.

FOOD PRICES: The basic explanation for these enormous profits is to be found in what has happened to food prices.

Between 1939 and September, 1947, the wholesale price of food increased 155 percent. Prices paid by consumers at retail also more than doubled, increasing 114 percent.

More than half of the entire rise in prices has occurred since Congress wrecked price control last year. Wholesale food prices shot up 59 percent between June, 1946 and September, 1947, and retail food prices jumped 40 percent. All signs point to even higher prices in the coming months.

The real cause of high food prices is the greed of the big corporations which control the food industries. They have jacked up prices to swell their profits.

They are able get away with this because they are so big they can ignore the so-called law of supply and demand which is supposed to regulate prices in our economic system.

WAGES AND LIVING STANDARDS: The weekly earnings of food processing workers today are double what they were before the war—$49.58 in August, 1947, compared to $24.74 in 1939.

But the cost of living has risen so much that real earnings, — weekly take-home wages in terms of how much they will buy—are only $4.55 higher now than before the war for a worker with a wife and two children to support. The average single worker's real take-home earnings are almost $1.00 a week less now than in 1939.

Besides this, part of the increase in dollar earnings is not due to wage increases but to longer hours of work. If the average food worker with three dependents had worked the same number of hours in August, 1947 as in 1939, his take-home earnings would have been only about $3.00 a week more than before the war; and the real earnings of single workers would be more than $2.00 less.

Taking these things into consideration, food workers today, when we have full employment and "prosperity", are making very little if any more money than in the depression year 1939, when there were 9,000,000 unemployed. Many are making less.

As pointed out in this column last month, the hourly earnings of food workers are further below the national average today than before the war.

Studies show that food workers do not earn enough to provide themselves and their families with a decent standard of living. The average worker's earnings fall $26 a week short of the income required by the Heller Budget. The Heller Budget measures the amount of income a worker with three dependents needs in order to enjoy a standard of living of minimum health and decency.

A larger and larger share of the wealth created in the food industries is being siphoned off as profits, leaving the workers who produce that wealth with a smaller and smaller portion of the fruits of their labor; Government reports show that in 1939, 70 percent of the value of the products produced by the food processing industries went to employes as wages and salaries, and less than 20 percent went into profits. In 1946, the share going to profits was up to nearly one-third of the total while the share going to the workers dropped to 64%.

This piling up of profits and inflation in prices, while at the same time the purchasing power of workers is decreasing, is laying the basis for a crash which may well make the last depression look like a boom by comparison. To avoid such a catastrophe, some measure of balance must be restored to our economic system. Three steps are essential:

1. Wages must be raised substantially to restore the purchasing power of workers, and to bring the wages of food workers closer to the prevailing national scale. With profits continuing to soar in 1947, wages of food workers can be increased 22% without lowering profits below the all-time record of 1946.

2. Price controls must be restored and prices rolled back to OPA ceiling levels.

3. Profiteering must be curbed by restoring the excess profits tax.

LEAVE TAFT-HARTLEY ALONE & LIVE LONGER

Close to 100 delegates from the Tri-State Region gave the Taft-Hartley act a two-day going-over at a week-end leadership training school in Winston-Salem, N. C., during which stewards and officers got a line on new problems they may expect to meet in coming months, and also worked out various new ways of handling such problems.

The delegates heard Frank Donner, assistant counsel for the national CIO, on the Taft-Hartley act, who pointed out that "some employers who hope to throttle collective bargaining by plunging unions in a new series of elections under the act have received bad legal advice."

Worked up by Local 22 in cooperation with Regional Director Karl Korstad and Assistant Director Moranda Smith, the leadership school gave particular attention to the four main fields of shop steward work under which Taft-Hartley problems may arise — contracts, grievances, PAC, and organizing. The second day of the school was devoted to panel discussion on each of these and to general discussion and action on the reports brought back by the chairman of each committee.

Donner, in his discussion of the Taft-Hartley act, attacked the efforts of the NAM to describe the act as a boon to workers.

"The law is so framed that even the limited protections theoretically surviving in it are made completely meaningless," he said. Delegates had thorough discussion on such points as the so-called "union shop" provision, and decided that "even if a union should try to get such a union shop through use of this law, and could survive the years of delay and confusion provided for by the act, it would wind up, not with a union shop, but with a license for the boss to plant as many agents as he desired in the membership, without the union being able to do anything about it."

Similar results were found under every other section of the law, turning each provision into a weapon in the hands of the bosses, so that the delegates decided every union would be better off to leave the law entirely alone.

Discussion following Donner's address was led by Joseph Califf, FTA research and education director. A general report on the structure of the union, and assignment of committee work, was made by International Vice-President Robert Lathan at the opening of the school.

FTA FIGHTS FOR FARM CO-OPS

Congress must not "reverse its 30 year old policy of aiding farmers' cooperatives to turn on them with the idea of destroying them" through taxation, FTA Vice-President Lewis O. Bentzley told the House Ways and Means Committee in Washington.

Bentzley's statement was given in testimony before the committee now considering big business plans to tax patronage refunds issued by farmer's cooperatives to their members and patrons. He spoke as FTA's executive officer in charge of farm-labor relations.

"Our members are opposed to the proposal to tax patronage refunds of farmer's cooperatives," Bentzley said. "Cooperatives were exempted from this kind of taxation — though they and their members pay all other taxes — over 30 years ago because Congress thought it desirable to help the farmers build cooperatives.

"Now there are influential groups that want the 80th Congress to reverse this 30 year old policy of aiding farmers' cooperatives and instead turn on them with the idea of destroying them.

"Cooperatives were aided by Congress 30 years ago as a small measure to help redress the balance of economic forces running against the farmer. In the same way, Congress 12 years ago passed the Wagner Labor Relations act as a small measure of help to the worker faced with the same economic forces running against him.

"The 80th Congress has already destroyed the Wagner act and given the employers the Taft-Hartley act in its place. As a trade unionist and a farmer, I hope the same Congress will not inflict the same kind of injury on the farmer by reversing the policy of aiding cooperatives that has stood for 30 years," he said.

"This Congress has already lent its aid to big business in a more than generous manner. It is our union's hope that it will not add the destruction of farmers' cooperatives to the list."

Working farmers, industrial workers and other low income groups are already seriously overtaxed, Bentzley added, suggesting that additional revenue, if needed, can be found by taxing excess corporation profits and increasing taxes on the rich.

"The big business interests in the background of this drive against farmers co-ops are not threatened by any so-called "unfair competition" from them. What they hope to do is to increase monopoly's grip on farmers and workers alike by driving the co-operatives out of business," he added.

45 Raises $ for PAC

By Evetta J. Hamp, Reporter

With the help of FTA Washington Representative Elizabeth Sasuly and tri-State Assistant Regional Director Moranda Smith, Richmond, Va., Local 45 organized a "pay your poll-tax, register and vote" meeting which brought total PAC contributions for the local up to $222.

Members of the Local 45 PAC committee are Jeannett Bosche, Pinkie McBride, Sarah Chalmers, Mary Lawrence, Mary Jones, Anne Carrington, James Hamp and Charles McClaiborne.

Give Till It Hurts—*Them*

By Harold J. Lane, Secretary-Treasurer

The bosses thought they had the labor movement licked when they passed the Taft-Hartley act,—but they were wrong.

They thought they had union members hog-tied when they made it a "crime" for workers to take part in politics —but they were wrong.

The bosses thought they could tear the Bill of Rights and the rest of the U. S. Constitution in little pieces and throw them down the drain without workers fighting back but they were wrong.

Workers are fighting back all over the nation, fighting back with dollars for CIO-PAC.

FTA members know the score. PAC dollars are rolling in from almost every FTA local. Political action is shaping up for '48 throughout the cities and towns where our union is organized.

Only a few days remain before the 1947 PAC dollar drive closes. Has your local collected from every member? Has your local sent in its report to FTA's national office? Have YOU done everything you could to help beat reaction in '48?

There was an old slogan in World War I—"Give Till It Hurts."

FTA-CIO is changing that slogan to read: "Give Till It Hurts—Them."

"Them" is the bosses who put over the Taft-Hartley act and the cheap politicians who killed price control, who tried to bust unions. LET'S HEAR FROM YOU!

How Wars Are Made

In an earlier time, we used to be taught that war was something that just happened, something that couldn't be stopped because periodically men simply have to fight each other.

How false and misleading an approach to the causes of war this is, is demonstrated clearly in Richard Sasuly's book "I. G. Farben," a study of the huge German trust that has become the biggest war maker of them all.

Dick Sasuly, husband of FTA's Washington Representative, knows what he's talking about when he brands the German dye and munitions trust as No. 1 war maker. He saw it in operation in Germany in 1945, when he was on a U. S. Army team assigned to cleaning Nazis out of German industry.

Sasuly saw it also when he went through ton after ton of I. G. Farben records—kept in the most thorough German style —proving that Farben was the heart of a conspiracy to enslave the entire world, America included.

"German industry had been the main support of conspiracy against the world which nearly succeeded in bringing back an age of mechanized feudalism," he writes.

"It took the combined strength of the U. S., the British and Soviet Russia finally to crush the armies which moved on the wheels of the German industrial system . . . Towering above the rest of the German industrial concerns was I. G. Farben . . . Germany's greatest corporation and the kingpin of the German war effort."

I. G. Farben contributed money to Hitler before he came to power in 1933. For the investment of a few hundred thousand or million marks, the rise to power of the Nazis paid off in billions of profit to Farben.

Farben made money out of everything Hitler's armies did. Farben sold the gas that killed six million Jews and countless millions of non-Jews in the concentration camps. Farben took slave labor for the camps and worked it to death in its factories. Farben took 200 women at one time for a medical experiment—all of them died. Farben stole the gold fillings from the teeth of slaughtered victims.

But all the time, as Sasuly points out, the directors of Farben were rich and respected citizens—and still are. "The story of I. G. Farben," he writes, "was, in fact, a success story. The leaders of I. G. Farben were sharp, but respectable businessmen who had piled up great wealth by building the engine which drove the Nazi war machine along the road to Buchenwald."

When Roosevelt and Stalin met at Yalta, they planned to end the power of I. G. Farben and other German led trusts and cartels to make war and inflict misery on the world. Later, at Potsdam, President Truman confirmed this in solemn agreement with Stalin and the British Atlee.

But, as Sasuly points out: "Half the task of destroying Nazism was accomplished on the battlefield. The other half of the job was planned at Potsdam. More than a year after agreement was reached by the Big Three at Potsdam, the second half of the job remains to be done."

I. G. Farben could never have operated as it did without the help of its counterparts among the big trusts in the U. S.—Standard Oil, duPont, J. P. Morgan, etc. These trusts, responsible along with Farben for World War II, are now preparing for World War III.

They have their agents in the U. S. Congress, in Truman's cabinet and in American Military Government in Germany, working to that end. And that is why we Americans have to clean the agents of the trusts out of Washington before we can be secure of peace in our time.

Sasuly's book shows the way big money prepares for fascism and war, and the way big business cleans up from both. Every worker who wants to know the real causes of war should read it.

IG Farben is published by Boni & Gaer, progressive publishers of New York, and costs in stiff covers $3.00 a copy.

XMAS IN JAIL FACES 3

Three FTA members and leaders are in jail in North Carolina for the "crime" of striking for a 65 cent an hour wage in the leafhouse industry.

(This is America, 1947, not Germany, 1933.)

One of the three is a woman worker, Mrs. Margaret deGraffenreid of Winston-Salem. Mrs. deGraffenreid has four small children, one of them an infant, and a father and mother to support. She was pregnant when the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company dominated police beat and slapped her in making the picketline arrest last summer.

(Land of magnolias, romance and chivalry to women.)

Another is Cal Jones, leafhouse worker. The third is Phil Koritz, FTA organizer. Mrs. deGraffenreid got eight months; Brother Jones, 10; Koritz, a year.

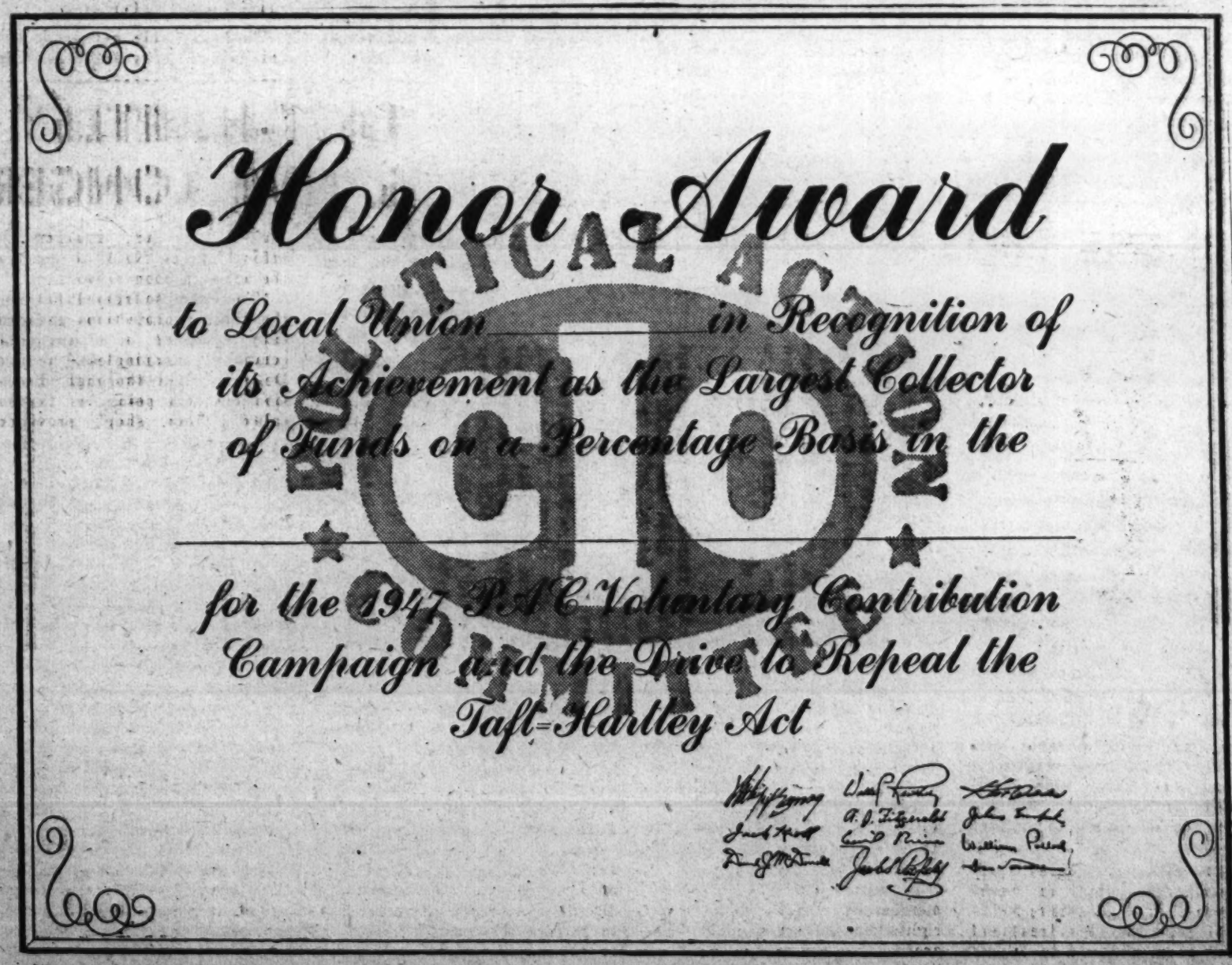
(Also, land of freedom, democracy and the right of peaceful assembly for the redress of grievances.)

Children get hungry when their parents can't earn money. They get cold, too.

It gets lonely in jail, especially at Christmas time.

Write to these workers. Send relief to their families. Send mail c/o FTA-CIO Local 22, Winston-Salem, N.C.

And write to Governor Gregg Cherry, Raleigh, N. C., to commute the sentences NOW.


Honor Award
to Local Union ____ in Recognition of
its Achievement as the Largest Collector
of Funds on a Percentage Basis in the
POLITICAL ACTION
CIO
OFFICERS
for the 1947 P.A.C. Voluntary Contribution
Campaign and the Drive to Repeal the
Taft-Hartley Act

Honor awards to local unions making outstanding collections of PAC dollars will be sent out at the conclusion of 1947 drive December 31. See that your local sends its returns prmoptly to FTA Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane at the International Office.

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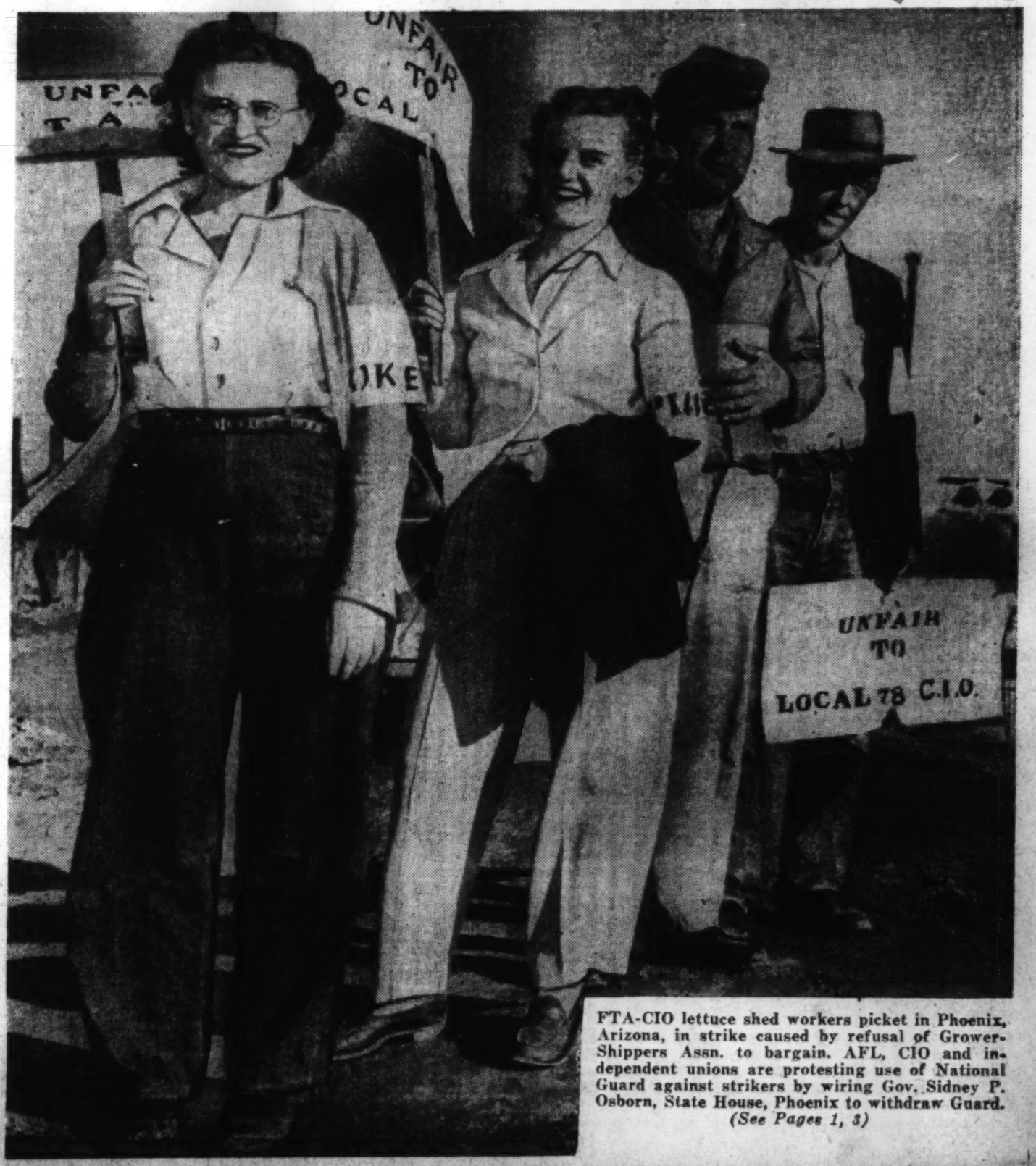
FTA NEWS
FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS ... CIO
Vol. VII, No. 14 December 15, 1947 ... Cents

NATIONAL GUARD OUT AGAINST FTA



FTA-CIO lettuce shed workers picket in Phoenix, Arizona, in strike caused by refusal of Grower-Shippers Assn. to bargain. AFL, CIO and independent unions are protesting use of National Guard against strikers by wiring Gov. Sidney P. Osborn, State House, Phoenix to withdraw Guard.

(See Pages 1, 3)

unAmericans Stomp On US Bill of Rights

The Bill of Rights of the U. S. Constitution—written by Thomas Jefferson and fought for over 150 years of history—took a battering from the House un-American committee in the special session of Congress opened three weeks ago.

The battering came when the House, by a railroad vote of 346 to 17, issued contempt warrants against 10 of Hollywood's top movie writers and directors for refusing to answer illegal and unconstitutional questions on their trade union affiliations and political beliefs.

Rep. Herman Eberharter (D., Pa.), one of the 17 who voted to uphold the constitution, put it this way when he said: "We can support the recommendations of the committee on unAmerican Activities for citations . . . or we can support free speech. We cannot have both."

Rep. Vito Marcantonio (ALP, N. Y.) added: "The technique is redbaiting and it is being used to impose fascism here. It was done this way in Italy. It was done this way in Germany."

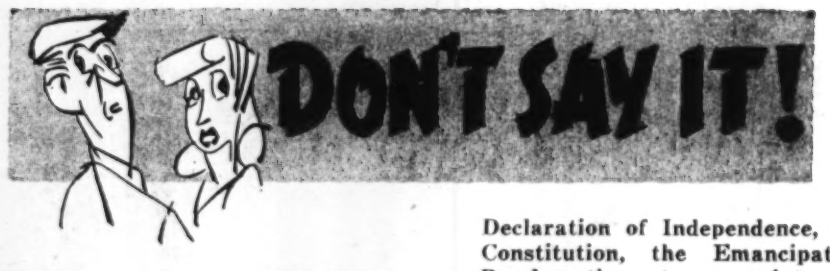
Eagerly agreeing with the un-Americans, the movie industry, owned by the same Wall Street gang that directs the committee, immediately fired the 10 smeared artists with a cloud of pious words about not falling for "hysteria," A new pattern has thus been set for the rest of industry; arrange for an unAmerican smear of active union members and then fire them at your own sweet will.

The people are fighting back, however. Out in Chicago the Civil Rights Congress, in a meeting attended by 336 delegates from 23 states, launched a 1,000,000 signature petition drive called for the abolition of the committee.

In Washington, Clifford Durr, liberal member of the Federal Communications Commission, had the courage to hit out at the FBI for unauthorized snooping on radio license applicants.

Down South, editor Aubrey Williams of the Southern Farmer (circulation, 1,000,000) summed it up when he wrote in an editorial:

"The promoters (of the un-American committee) claim they are fighting communism. The truth is they are fighting anybody and everybody who is not willing to have our country taken over by Big Brass and Big Business."



The Grocerymen's Assn. of Los Angeles tried to prevent a CIO farmers market from operating by arresting the operator. In Oregon, wholesalers refused to supply a small town grocery that was cutting prices for CIO members. In his latest speech, Sen. Taft says we should "spend less" to be saved for Free Enterprise. We used to think the big boys just wanted us to eat less. Now it seems they don't want us to eat at all.

* * *

Ask your history teacher about this one from the NAM: "Mr. Truman has projected (with his message to Congress on inflation) into the political arena an issue as controversial and as many-sided as that of slavery in the last century." Some people, of course, think that the struggle for human freedom is "controversial," but this student never realized before that slavery was "many-sided." Lincoln didn't either.

* * *

And here's another "controversy" that could be argued for hours—from the title of an article in the Apparel Manufacturer—"Are Workers and Bosses People?" Many a harassed shop steward has pondered over the rear end of that question.

* * *

"FBI FAKERS LOCK 2 IN CLOSET, LOOT HOME"—headline in the New York Times. Somebody must have been feeding the editor red meat. Everybody knows the FBI aren't "fakers" and certainly never enter a home without an invitation.

* * *

The Freedom Train isn't stopping at Memphis, Tenn. and a town in Mississippi. The reason—Negroes will not be permitted by the city fathers to view the relics along with white people. It must be obvious to anyone that the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Emancipation Proclamation, etc., were intended to apply to Pure Nordic Blonds with Long Heads.

* * *

A Republican Congressman from Ohio recently put an article into the Congressional Record under the title "Thank God For Congress." CIO members are saying it this way—"Thank God for PAC and here's a buck to prove I mean it."

* * *

This'll make your heart bleed—the boss, says Pres. Paul F. Douglas of American University, is "a lonesome individual who makes the American organization go. He has longer hours, reads more books, meets more people and lies awake more hours than anyone else." Of course, he also gets more pay—but the good professor didn't mention that.

* * *

The Intl. Assn. of Machinists was the first to file Taft-Hartley "no red" affidavits. Now comes the E. C. Brown pump concern, being organized by IAM and promptly shutting down the plant on the grounds that IAM is "communist infiltrated." That's what you might call biting the tongue that licks you, or in plain words, man's ingratitude to mouse.

* * *

The Canadians are putting back price control after a few weeks experimenting without it. Of course, they're only foreigners, and foreigners are always doing the craziest things.

* * *

Reactionary Congressmen cost the American worker $581 per head in high prices, death of OPA, etc. One buck for PAC is the price of 10 beers. One bad Congressman is the price of 5,810 beers. Now, if you really like beer, you can do your own arithmetic.